



Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2019

5 -7 p.m. – River Bank Building, Twisp, WA

Council Members Present: Andy Hover, Soo Ing-Moody, Greg Knott, Travis Thornton, Ashley Thrasher

Others in Attendance: Vanessa Brinkhuis, Natalie Kuehler, Craig McDonald, and Lorah Super (MVCC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	NO MOTIONS WERE MADE			

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ashley Thrasher at 5:09 P.M.

2. Introductions

All introduced themselves including guests Lorah Super, Craig McDonald (Interested Party)

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Andy moved to approve with the amendment of no Tech Committee Report. Travis seconded. Agenda was approved.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Andy moved to approve the March Minutes. Greg seconded. Three approved, Soo and Travis abstained as they were not at the March meeting. The minutes were approved.

5. Report from the Chair

Ashley asked members to get the Conflict of Interest forms signed and to Sarah if not done yet. Council members renewing positions need to be approved by Twisp Town Council. Dick and Travis on Agenda for next week’s meeting.

Ashley reported that the MWC can have meetings at the River Bank through July. She is working out details for meeting space in Twisp City Hall.

Regarding the TLAC closeout: A time extension request was sent to Ecology for George to send closeout report.

45 people attended Chris Konrad’s Mar. 26 outreach event, approx. 35 attended Jennifer Bountry talk on April 16. Next is John Crandall on May 14. Tech Committee outreach events on water accounting are coming up as well.

Agenda Item 4.19-01: Subcommittee Assignments

Ashley reviewed current membership on subcommittees.

- Tech committee: Mike chair, Andy, Greg, Bill T. Metering project is main project.



- Political Action: Soo has been solo on this committee, with Mary helping on 2 CFS rule opening legislation, but this is on hold pending conversations that need to happen first. Target is next legislative session. Greg said that this committee was meant to track water related legislation as well. Not much has been happening with the committee. Bill T was on it and tracking these things, but isn't currently. Greg mentioned the issue with local governments on Council maybe wanting to send letters of support under their own entities. Soo thinks the Council sending a letter including governments could be powerful. Soo thinks the Council should discuss this kind of collective letter. Travis said he would serve on the PA committee. Committee agreed to confirm chair later. This committee is re-starting. Mary is known to be interested, and is a suggested member.
- Outreach and Education- Greg is the solo committee member, with Sarah's help. Greg will think about people to add, potentially Daniel from Methow Conservancy is a good prospect. It was noted that Ashley is on each committee as well, but doesn't need to attend all. Outreach is one she might.
- Water 2066 – Ashley, Greg, Travis, Dick Ewing.

Ashley reminded the group that a person does not need to be on the Council to serve on a subcommittee.

6. Ecology Report

Regarding TLAC, George can start writing the report in Word for Vanessa to review prior to entering to EAGL. Vanessa will check on amendment status. Water 2066 has been submitted and is in process. Mary will receive email when it is ready to print and mail. Grant is backdated so will cover work done so far. TLAC request to move funds needs to be submitted by email. Funds can't be moved until final report is done and TLAC is closed out.

Regarding drought declaration in WRIA 48, 49 and 39. Ecology does expect curtailment for junior water right holders this year. Expects it to happen sooner based on flows. Ecology will work with junior right holders so they know what to do and how to call in. Ecology will also work with irrigators. Trevor Hutton is a drought question resource person. There is no funding for drought relief at this point, it is usually available when water resources are less than 70%. Currently at 77%. Soo asked about drought grant funding in current legislation. Vanessa knows of a grant that is funding multiple agencies, though not Ecology, for \$2 M, mostly for drought monitoring.

7. MWF Report.

Mary reported MWF received \$4K from Moccasin Lake.

Sarah reached out to some potential grant leads recommended by Hilary Atens at the PCC Farmland Trust.

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp- no report

Town of Winthrop- no report

Okanogan County-

Andy reported that water study area overlays had been made over closed areas in closed basins. No subdivision will be allowed except for very specific demonstrable circumstance such as a water right. Public hearing in 60 days. This restriction will be for two years or less.



Aspect gave a presentation on MAR (Infiltration) for mitigation. The County Auditor and Treasurer were present and had brief discussion on cost to OK Co. regarding the devaluing of County tax revenues via property values, and if it is worth it for the county to put money into mitigation to preserve values and funding base.

Greg asked if there are any good potential mitigations. Andy said well to leach field from out of closed basin to inside closed basin has good potential. Greg and Perry had discussed LIDs to fund this idea. Andy said that that is the only way to track it. Andy reported a private party is interested in doing hydrologic studies in closed basins.

Greg asked if there have been conversations with tribe regarding water for water mitigation. Andy says this would be a water for water situation. Water can come from a well, or a pumping station on river. With MAR, there are less WQ issues than with injection wells. It could mean pumping to a cistern that flows to an infiltration gallery. Travis asked if that would fall into allowed uses under Rule. Andy said yes, the way it is framed, as non-consumptive use, within basin boundaries, is part of the allowable use of the reserve. The withdrawal point is allowable and the water is used as non-consumptive storage. Natalie thinks that a new water right would be needed to take it out of the stream. All closed basins have been adjudicated, under adjudication or under review. Allowable uses were removed from closed basins and the County and Ecology believe it can be mitigated for.

Andy said next step will be to see if County will put money onto feasibility study for a hydrogeologic study for mitigation in closed basins. There is a fund for WQ in the Methow that may be able to fund study. Tax payers bills will go up if other properties are devalued, so it's in the County's best interest to find solutions.

Natalie wondered about re-adjudicating the basins based on potential expired water rights and potentially more available water. Andy stated that Ecology didn't know why basins were closed, and Andy found adjudication records that match the closed basins. Domestic use has always been considered important under the '76 Rule, and exemptions allowed for domestic when no other option existed. '91 review took away exemptions, but there were no target streamflows to attain, to measure mitigation against. Also, the concepts of groundwater and hydraulic continuity were not considered in '76.

The current test case for MAR is in Walla Walla. John Covert is familiar with the project at the Eastern Regional Office.

Andy elaborated – Mitigation strategy works because of one well/one parcel concept. Just as you can pump from a well outside the basin on your property and use it on the closed portion, a well outside of closed basin it can be used for exempt purpose as long as it is within the reach. There are 1100 currently existing parcels in closed basins with zero infrastructure that will be devalued by the moratorium. 5.8M is currently collected from all assessed value property. Levy rate has to increase on other properties if some are decreased. Andy doesn't believe current domestic use has a detrimental impact, but in the future it will. Greg noted that effects will be, and already are negative in localized areas, and those need to be considered for protecting fish.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

No report

Political Action Committee, Chair – Knott

No report



Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott

Other than what Ashley said already, Greg asked Vanessa about outreach from Ecology regarding response to drought. With change for rules for drought declaration, it would be good to inform people of what could happen, such as information on curtailments, funding issues, and include this topic in Water 2066.

Andy said that it is interesting that no SDU well can be curtailed. Junior right holders post '76 are the ones who can be shut off. TU can do temporary transfer of water rights more quickly in drought. Wolf Creek, Chewuch Canal and Early Winters ditch will all be impacted. Vanessa said Trevor is thinking about informational meeting in the WRIAs affected by drought declaration. Greg offered to be point of contact for such meetings.

Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher

Ashley reported that approved for \$10K additional. Grant has been submitted. Vanessa said that Ecology's financial person should review in the next week or so, and then needs to go through process. Shouldn't take to long. Another week after signatures to activate. Contract will be signed when all is approved. Meeting with contractors scheduled for May 10.

10. Agenda items for next meeting

MWF will report on Long Term Funding Strategy meeting.

11. Public Comment

None were made

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the May 16, 2019 Council meeting.